Roling, P.V., A. Howlett, and L.E. Brown. 2011. *Liriope muscari* and *Ophiopogon japonicus* (Ruscaceae) naturalized in Texas. Phytoneuron 2011-5: 1–5.

LIRIOPE MUSCARI AND *OPHIOPOGON JAPONICUS* (RUSCACEAE) NATURALIZED IN TEXAS

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ABSTRACT

Liriope muscari and *Ophiopogon japonicus* are reported here as naturalized in Texas. Both species are growing in bottomland woods in Jesse H. Jones Park on the northwest side of Humble, Harris County.

KEY WORDS: *Liriope muscari*, *Ophiopogon japonicus*, Texas, naturalized

Two species of liriopogons have become naturalized in Jesse H. Jones Park on the northwest side of Humble, Harris County, Texas. The park is at the end of Kenswick Drive. Documentation is provided here for the first time for the occurrence of *Ophiopogon japonicus* (Thunb.) Ker Gawl. and *Liriope muscari* (Dcne.) L.H. Bailey outside of cultivation in Texas.

Jesse H. Jones Park is over 300 acres in size and includes upland woods, bottomland woods and swamps, and riparian vegetation in the bottomland of Spring Creek. Both species are growing in bottomland woods, where heavy rains periodically flood the area. Presumably, they have become established in the park through dispersal of seeds from nearby residential neighborhoods. The naturalized plants are not close to horticultural plantings.

Ophiopogon japonicus (Figs. 1-3). The scapes are shorter than the leaves and the flowers are about 10 and nodding. The plants are colonial and expanding. Currently, the colony measures approximately four feet by four feet. The possible presence of the species in the Houston area (as shown by a photo of fruits on the Bayou Preservation Association website) was noted by Nesom (2010), but it previously has been documented in the USA only from Alabama (Spaulding et al. 2010).

Texas. Harris Co.: Jesse H. Jones Park, along Jones Bender Trail west of bridge (lat. 30.024222, long. -95.288800), N off of Hwy 1960 and W of the village of Humble, 11 June 2010, *Paul Roling s.n.* (SBSC).

Liriope muscari (Figs. 4-5). The *Liriope muscari* from the park has leaves 10+ mm wide, the scapes were definitely well beyond the leaves, and the couple of plants were in one tight clump of about one square foot. There were no flowers on the scapes, all having bloomed when found. The species has previously been reported outside of cultivation in the USA in Alabama, Georgia, Kansas, Louisiana, Maryland, Mississippi, and South Carolina (Nesom 2010).

Texas. Harris Co.: Jesse H. Jones Park, forest north of the North Branch of Jones Bender Trail, 0.5 of way between parking lot and bridge (lat. 30.024414, long. -95.289936), 27 Sep 2010, *Paul Roling s.n.* (SBSC).

LITERATURE CITED

Nesom, G.L. 2010. Overview of *Liriope* and *Ophiopogon* (Ruscaceae) commonly cultivated and naturalized in the USA. Phytoneuron 2010-56: 1–31.

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Figure 1. *Ophiopogon japonicus* colony.

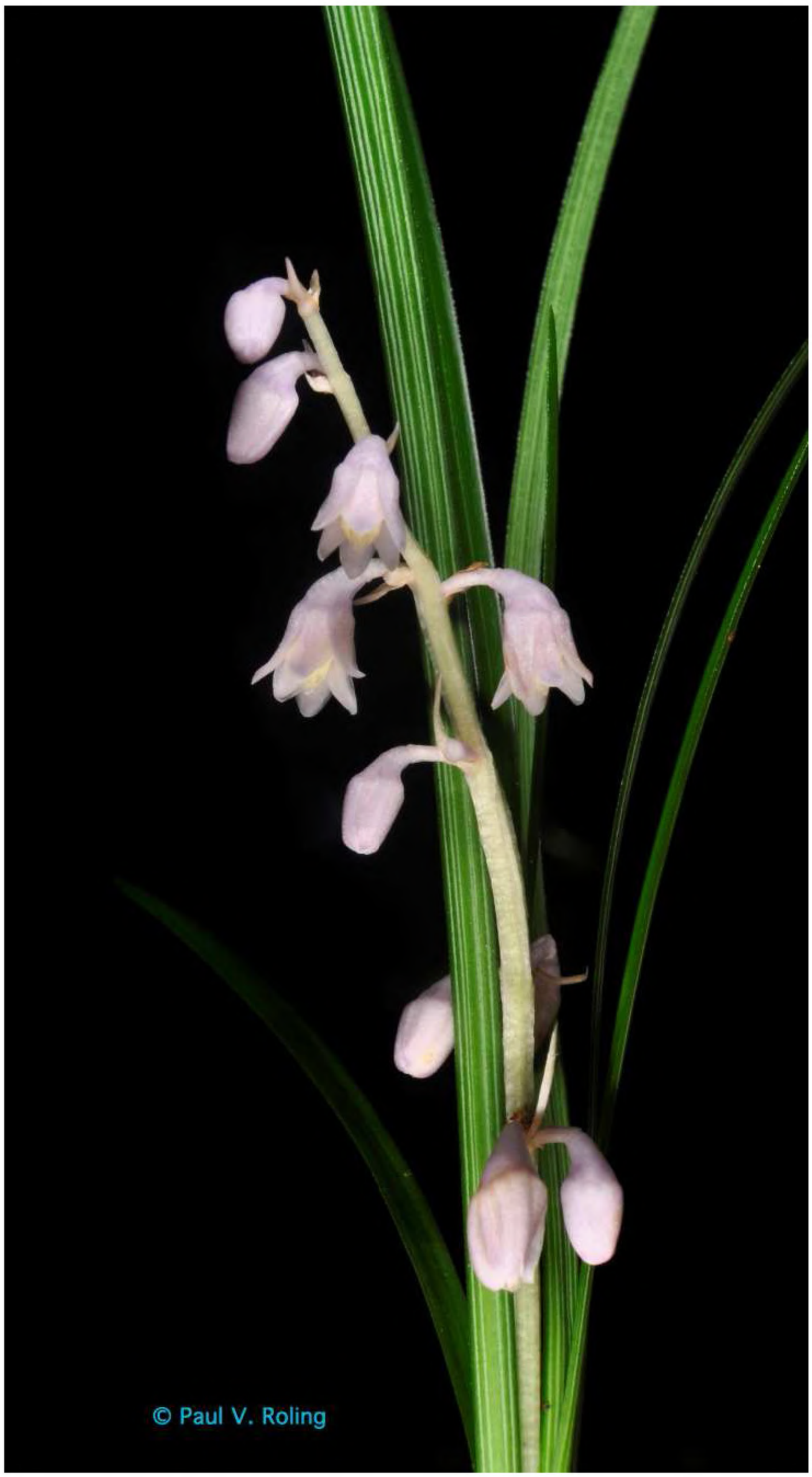

Figure 2. *Ophiopogon japonicus* scape in flower.

Figure 3. Close-up of O*phiopogon japonicus* flower.

Figure 4. *Liriope muscari* cluster in the woods.

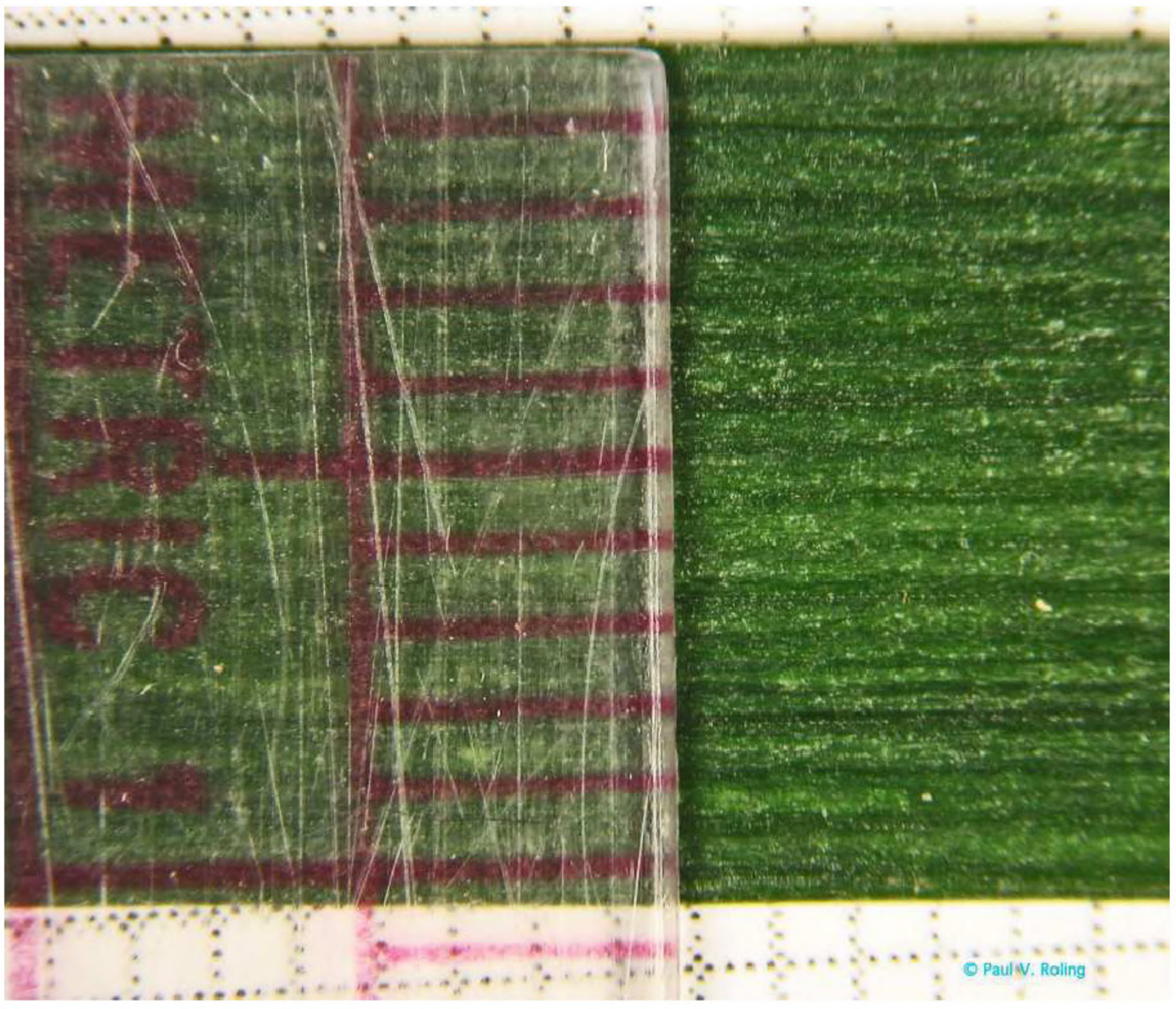

Figure 5. Leaf detail of *Liriope muscari* showing size and veins.